

Week 4 - #WorkGoals

There are 168 hours in every week. So, for the person working fulltime, we can easily spend 35 – 55% of our waking hours at the workplace. Tells us two things:

1. That's too many hours in a week to stay on a job we really don't like.
2. The condition of our workplace relationships can have a dramatic impact on our overall happiness.

Romans 12:18 (NIV) – *If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.*

Most people don't truly understand God's purpose for their work, especially in a secular environment where many people may not believe in God.

- NOT there to make money.
- NOT there to advance up the corporate ladder and become successful in the eyes of others.
- NOT there for everything to go our way and have an easy time at work.

Matthew 5:13 – 15 (MSG) *"Let me tell you why YOU are here. You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You've lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage. 14 "Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. 15 If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand.*

- God sends us to work for us to have **INFLUENCE!!**
- Every day, we are responsible for the influence we have on others (whether good or bad).

Four Work Goals

1. Commit to being EXCELLENT at Your Job

- So often people blame the devil for attacking them on their job or chalk their negative experience up to some form of discrimination...when the truth is the pain is often the result of a **lack of excellence!**
- **Daniel 6:1 – 3 (MSG)** *Darius reorganized his kingdom. He appointed one hundred twenty governors to administer all the parts of his realm. 2 Over them were three vice-regents, one of whom was Daniel. The governors reported to the vice-regents, who made sure that everything was in order for the king. 3 But Daniel, brimming with spirit and intelligence, so **COMPLETELY OUTCLASSED** the other vice-regents and governors that the king decided to put him in charge of the whole kingdom.*
- Excellence commands respect and gains attention.
- **Ephesians 6:6, 7 (MSG)** – *Don't just do what you have to do to get by, but work heartily, as Christ's servants doing what God wants you to do. 7 And work with a smile on your face, always keeping in mind that no matter who happens to be giving the orders, you're really serving God.*
- *Purloining* – to take small, seemingly insignificant items without permission.

2. Commit to being Genuinely Interested in Others

- **II Timothy 3:1 – 4 (MSG)** *"Don't be naive. There are difficult times ahead. 2 As the end approaches, people are going to be **self-absorbed, money-hungry, self-promoting, stuck-up, profane,***

contemptuous of parents, crude, coarse, 3 dog-eat-dog, unbending, slanderers, impulsively wild, savage, cynical, 4 treacherous, ruthless, bloated windbags, addicted to lust, and allergic to God.

- We all have a deep longing to be NEEDED and KNOWN.
- **Ephesians 2:2, 3 (MSG)** – *And mark that you do this with humility and discipline - not in fits and starts, but steadily, pouring yourselves out FOR EACH OTHER in acts of love, 3 alert at noticing differences and quick at mending fences.*
- **QUOTE** (Anonymous): *Maturity begins to grow when you can sense your concern for OTHERS outweighing your concern for yourself.*

3. Commit to Pass the Credit and Take the Blame

- Our natural human tendency is to take the credit but not accept responsibility for our actions.
- **Matthew 5:38 – 41 (GNT)** *You have heard that it was said, "An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth." 39 But now I tell you: do not take revenge on someone who wrongs you. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, let him slap your left cheek too. 40 And if someone takes you to court to sue you for your shirt, let him have your coat as well. 41 And if one of the occupation troops forces you to carry his pack one mile, carry it two miles.*

4. Commit to Gratitude and Prayer

- **Philippians 1:3, 4 (MSG)** – *Every time you cross my mind, I break out in exclamations of thanks to God. 4 Each exclamation is a trigger to prayer. I find myself praying for you with a glad heart.*
- Regularly let people know how much you value them and PRAY for your work family daily!!